

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01801 101212Z

47

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 ARA-10 /013 W

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R 092000Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3370

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, GY (CORT, JUNE F.)

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS: JUNE F. CORT

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IN VIEW OF PROBABLE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY FROM CONGRESSMAN BRECKINRIDGE.

2. MRS. CORT AND HER 9 YEAR OLD SON BOTH AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN RESIDING IN GEORGETOWN SINCE DECEMBER, 1975 WITH MR. LEROY CORT, GUYANESE NATIONAL. IN AN INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 7, MRS. CORT RELATED THE FOLLOWING TO A CONSULAR OFFICER. LEROY CORT ENTERED INTO A BIGAMOUS MARRIAGE WITH HER ABOUT 3 AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO. AFTER LEARNING THAT HE WAS STILL MARRIED MRS. CORT INITIALLY SOUGHT AN ANNULMENT BUT LATER CHANGED HER MIND AND AT THE URGING OF CORT HAS LIVED WITH HIM IN GEORGETOWN SINCE DECEMBER, 1975 WHILE HE ARRANGED A DIVORCE WITH HIS FIRST WIFE. HOWEVER, SHE SAID THAT HER SITUATION HERE RECENTLY DETERIORATED AND SHE NOW WANTS TO RETURN TO THE U.S. SHE STATED THAT CORT WILL NOT PERMIT HER TO SHIP HER PERSONAL EFFECTS AND IS NOT WILLING TO LET HER GO. FURTHER, THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEGAN TO ABUSE BOTH HER AND HER SON. MRS. CORT WANTED ASSISTANCE IN SHIPPING HER PERSONAL EFFECTS AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY. SHE HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR HER SON'S AND HER RETURN TO THE U.S. BUT NOT TO SHIP HER BELONGINGS. SHE PRODUCED A FORM LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN BRECKENRIDGE'S OFFICE AND STATED HE KNEW HER MOTHER AND THAT HE WOULD EITHER CALL THE EMBASSY OR THE DEPARTMENT TO HAVE THE POST PAY FOR RETURN OF EFFECTS.

3. CONOFF EXPLAINED SYMPATHETICALLY THAT WE WERE NORMALLY NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01801 101212Z

PERMITTED TO TAKE POSSESSION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS OF AMERICAN

CITIZENS OR TO PAY TO HAVE THEM RETURNED TO THE U.S. HE SUGGESTED THAT MRS. CORT CONTACT A GUYANESE LAWYER WHO WAS ACQUAINTANCE OF HERS AND HAVE HIM INTERCEDE WITH CORT AND IF NECESSARY TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. CONOFF CONTINUED THAT QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP OF PERSONAL EFFECTS MIGHT PROVE TO BE MORE DIFFICULT AND FOR THAT REASON SHE SHOULD HAVE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE IF NEEDED.

4. COMMENT. WHILE CONOFF SYMPATHIZED WITH MRS. CORT'S PROBLEM HE WAS RELUCTANT TO BECOME TOO INVOLVED AT THIS MOMENT IN WHAT MIGHT ONLY BE "MARITAL DISPUTE". CONOFF'S SITUATION STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT MRS. CORT ADMITTED SHE HAS BEEN LIVING ON AND OFF FOR 3 1/2 YEARS WITH CORT EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW HE HAD COMMITTED BIGAMY. HOPEFULLY MATTER WILL BE SORTED OUT BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO RENDER ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE01801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760342-0523
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760978/aaaacpcj.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS: JUNE F. CORT
TAGS: CASC, GY, (CORT, JUNE F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006